ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for displaying meaningful abbreviated program titles. One or more characters from the text of a program title are selectively removed to create an abbreviated program title. The abbreviated program title retains the essential meaning of the program title. The abbreviated program title allows the essential meaning of the program title to be conveyed within a specified number of characters. The abbreviated program title is then displayed in a program title field of an onscreen program guide that is capable of displaying a specified number of characters. In one embodiment the program title text is parsed and all nonessential, nonrelational words are removed. Relational words are replaced with representative characters. In an alternative embodiment, essential words are abbreviated or removed if necessary.

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